

the question is asked : « For what were we created ? » The answer to it is : « To learn to serve and love God in this world in order that we may be happy forever with Him in the next. » Ah, this lets us into the whole secret. We were not created to be rich, to live without work, to live in fine houses, and wear fine clothes, and ride in elegant coaches, and have, what folks are apt to call, a fine time of it. No, it was for nothing of all this, but to learn to love and serve God during this life, in order to earn heaven, and prepare ourselves to be happy forever with God.

This is the reason why the rich are so often unhappy, in spite of all their money and splendor. They are just living for riches and pleasure, instead of to please God, and they cannot find any real satisfaction in such a life. God will never let us have any happiness unless we live in order to please and love Him. — It is true, a rich man or woman can serve God and be happy ; but it is difficult, for riches and honors and pleasures steal away the heart, and cause Him to be forgotten. And when God is forgotten, what enjoyment can there be of life ? what is over and above our necessary and suitable clothing will bring but little satisfaction. It only feeds an idle vanity, destroys contentment, and fills us with desires for a thousand things that never satisfy us when they are supplied. — We are always the worse for it when we eat or drink much more than is necessary for us ; we lose our appetite, our health and our strength, so that the body becomes a burden, and life a misery. — All the money or honor in the world cannot ensure health or contentment of mind. Then there is death, in the midst of our earthly enjoyments, always staring us in the face. Our friends are cut down around us, and we know not the day or the hour when our turn will come. But we know very well that when it does come, we must be torn away, whether we will or no, from everything in this world which we have set our hearts upon. Can we find any enjoyment in such a life as we have here, unless it be grounded on peace with God ? unless we carry out the blessed intentions which God had in creating us, namely, that we should love and serve Him ? and then, think of that vast eternity which stretches away beyond, after this life is over. How small and mean every-